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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,903	02/08/2002	Tomohiro Suzuki	219315US2	8034
22850	7590	01/28/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			JOYCE, WILLIAM C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3682	

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/067,903	SUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner William C. Joyce	Art Unit 3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 3,4,13 and 14 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 9-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed November 6, 2003 for the above identified patent application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Waltz et al. (US Patent 5,916,057).

Waltz et al. discloses an input member (26,28) frictionally engaging an output member (122), wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input member and the output member is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members. For example, Waltz et al. discloses (column 6, lines 53+ and Figure 7) the output member having a friction surface configured to resemble a cycloid curve.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goi (JP 11-82659).

Figure 5 of Goi illustrates an input member (16) frictionally engaging an output member (14), wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input member and the output member is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members. For example, Goi illustrates (Figures 1-3) the output member having a non-circular friction surface.

4. Claims 1, 2, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strecker (US Patent 2,734,389).

Strecker discloses an input member frictionally engaging an output member, wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input member and the output member is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members.

5. Claims 1, 2, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamamoto (JP 10-89431).

Kamamoto illustrates an input member frictionally engaging an output member, wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input member and the output member is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output

members. It is noted that Kamamoto is described in the specification as "prior art," however the claim language does not appear to preclude the prior art reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3, 4, 13, 14 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-5114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

William C. Joyce 1/22/04
William C. Joyce